



Dr Chris Burns

MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORT

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GOVT TIGHTENS LICENSING, ACCREDITATION CONTROL IN COMMERCIAL PASSENGER VEHICLE INDUSTRY

The Government has tightened controls on the licensing and accreditation of drivers and operators of commercial passenger vehicles.

Infrastructure and Transport Minister Dr Chris Burns said amendments to the *Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Act* and the *Motor Vehicles Act* were passed in Parliament today.

“The amendments will enhance the safety of the travelling public,” Dr Burns said.

“They will remove from the commercial passenger vehicle industry people who are not considered “fit and proper” because they have been convicted of a disqualifying offence.”

Under the new legislation, an existing operator or driver who has been convicted of a disqualifying offence will have their accreditation or licence cancelled.

Any person who has a conviction for a disqualifying offence and applies to enter the industry will be refused.

Disqualifying offences include murder, sexual offences and serious assaults.

Offences committed in the Northern Territory, other states and territories and overseas all qualify.

The amendments apply to all commercial passenger vehicle licence holders, including drivers of taxis, buses, minibuses, tourist vehicles, private hire cars, limousines and courtesy vehicles.

The amendments considerably strengthen the existing discretionary “fit and proper” assessment system.

They contain appeal provisions for people who believe exceptional circumstances apply to their particular offence.

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